



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

[1651-0105]

Application to use Automated Commercial Environment (ACE)

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: 60-Day Notice and request for comments; revision of an existing collection of information.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). The information collection is published in the *Federal Register* to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies.

DATES: Comments are encouraged and must be submitted (no later than [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]) to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice must include the OMB Control Number 1651-0105 in the subject line and the agency name. Please use the following method to submit comments:

Email. Submit comments to: CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov.

Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, CBP has temporarily suspended its ability to receive public comments by mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional PRA information should be directed to Seth Renkema, Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Trade, Regulations and Rulings, 90 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20229-1177, telephone number 202-325-0056 or via email CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov. Please note that the contact information provided here is solely

for questions regarding this notice. Individuals seeking information about other CBP programs should contact the CBP National Customer Service Center at 877-227-5511, (TTY) 1-800-877-8339, or CBP website at <https://www.cbp.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: CBP invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed and/or continuing information collections pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.8. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies should address one or more of the following four points: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) suggestions to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) suggestions to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses. The comments that are submitted will be summarized and included in the request for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Overview of This Information Collection

Title: Application to use Automated Commercial Environment

OMB Number: 1651-0105

Form Number: N/A

Current Actions: Revision of an existing collection of information

Type of Review: Revision

Affected Public: Businesses

Abstract: The Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is a trade data processing system that is replacing the Automated Commercial System (ACS), the current import system for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations. ACE is authorized by Executive Order 13659 which mandates implementation of a Single Window through which businesses will transmit data required by participating agencies for the importation or exportation of cargo. See 79 FR 10655 (February 25, 2014). ACE supports government agencies and the trade community with border-related missions with respect to moving goods across the border efficiently and securely. Once ACE is fully implemented, all related CBP trade functions and the trade community will be supported from a single common user interface.

To establish an ACE Portal account, participants submit information such as their name, their employer identification number (EIN) or social security number (SSN), and if applicable, a statement certifying their capability to connect to the internet. This information is submitted through the ACE Secure Data Portal which is accessible at: <http://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated>.

Please Note: A CBP-assigned number may be provided in lieu of your SSN. If you have an EIN, that number will automatically be used and no CBP number will be assigned. A CBP-assigned number is for CBP use only.

There is a standalone capability for electronically filing protests in ACE. This capability is available for participants who have not established ACE Portal Accounts for other trade activities, but desire to file protests electronically. A protest is a procedure whereby a private party may administratively challenge

a CBP decision regarding imported merchandise and certain other CBP decisions. Trade members can establish a protest filer account in ACE through a separate application and the submission of specific data elements. See 81 FR 57928 (August 24, 2016).

Proposed Changes:

1. New ACE Account type:

CBP is creating a new ACE Account type for ACE Import Trade Carriers and their designees. This new account type: Vessel Agency, enables users the ability to file vessel entrance, clearance, and related data to CBP electronically through the new Vessel Entrance and Clearance System (VECS).

The ACE Account Application will be changed to collect identifying information such as their name, their employer identification number (EIN), their company address, and their phone numbers, to be used to setup their Vessel Agency accounts. Users who create a Vessel Agency Account are automatically enrolled into the VECS public pilot.

2. Removing ACE Account types:

In a separate action, unrelated to the Vessel Agency account type creation, CBP will also be removing account types “Cartman”, “Claimant”, and “Lighterman” from the ACE Account Application. These account types were never used and are being removed due to that lack of use.

Type of Information Collection: Application to ACE (Import)

Estimated Number of Respondents: 21,571

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 21,571

Estimated Time per Response: 20 minutes (0.33 hours)

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 7,118

Type of Information Collection: Application to ACE (Export)

Estimated Number of Respondents: 9,000

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 9,000

Estimated Time per Response: 4 minutes (0.066 hours)

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 594

Type of Information Collection: Application to Establish an ACE Protest Filer Account

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,750

Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1

Estimated Number of Total Annual Responses: 3,750

Estimated Time per Response: 4 minutes (0.066 hours)

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 248

Dated: November 9, 2021.

Seth D. Renkema,
Branch Chief, Economic Impact Analysis Branch,
U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

